

RIVERSIDE: Man shot, killed by police is identified

BY CHRIS ERCOLI AND MICHAEL WATANABE STAFF WRITERS June 11, 2013; 11:50 PM

Riverside police shot and killed the passenger in a vehicle involved in a hit-and-run crash after the passenger pointed a gun at officers late Tuesday, June 11, police said.

Rashad Jarrett Hopes, 26, of Corona, died at 11:21 p.m. on Van Buren Boulevard near Highway 91, the Riverside County coroner said.

The driver, Clifton Carl Chapple, 21, of Riverside, was arrested by the California Highway Patrol on suspicion of hit-and-run driving under the influence.

Riverside police Sgt. David Amador gave this account of the incident: About 11 p.m., two vehicles collided on Highway 91 at Madison Avenue. He wasn't aware of any injuries during the crash.

The vehicle that police say caused the crash left the scene but was followed by witnesses.

That vehicle exited the freeway at Van Buren, where it crashed into the center divider. The passenger got out and walked to a Chevron gas station on the west side of Van Buren. Witnesses told police he was carrying a gun.

When officers arrived, they were directed to the rear of the gas station and found Hopes, who ran to the front of the station and was confronted by officers.

Hopes then pointed his handgun at those officers, who shot him, Amador said. No officers were injured.

Hopes was due to appear in Riverside County Superior Court on July 11 to answer to accusations that he violated his probation from misdemeanor convictions of drunken driving and driving while his license was suspended or revoked, according to court records.

Chapple had a warrant out for his arrest for failing to appear after being cited in 2012 on suspicion of driving at an unsafe speed and not being licensed, court records show.

Anyone with information about the shooting may call Detective Rick Wheeler at 951-353-7134 or Detective Rick Cobb at 951-353-7135.

Contributing to this report: Staff writers John Asbury, jasbury@pe.com, and Michael Watanabe, mwatanabe@pe.com